

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

MAR 26 1973

LIBRARY

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000
1001
1002
1003
1004
1005
1006
1007
1008
1009
1010
1011
1012
1013
1014
1015
1016
1017
1018
1019
1020
1021
1022
1023
1024
1025
1026
1027
1028
1029
1030
1031
1032
1033
1034
1035
1036
1037
1038
1039
1040
1041
1042
1043
1044
1045
1046
1047
1048
1049
1050
1051
1052
1053
1054
1055
1056
1057
1058
1059
1060
1061
1062
1063
1064
1065
1066
1067
1068
1069
1070
1071
1072
1073
1074
1075
1076
1077
1078
1079
1080
1081
1082
1083
1084
1085
1086
1087
1088
1089
1090
1091
1092
1093
1094
1095
1096
1097
1098
1099
1100
1101
1102
1103
1104
1105
1106
1107
1108
1109
1110
1111
1112
1113
1114
1115
1116
1117
1118
1119
1120
1121
1122
1123
1124
1125
1126
1127
1128
1129
1130
1131
1132
1133
1134
1135
1136
1137
1138
1139
1140
1141
1142
1143
1144
1145
1146
1147
1148
1149
1150
1151
1152
1153
1154
1155
1156
1157
1158
1159
1160
1161
1162
1163
1164
1165
1166
1167
1168
1169
1170
1171
1172
1173
1174
1175
1176
1177
1178
1179
1180
1181
1182
1183
1184
1185
1186
1187
1188
1189
1190
1191
1192
1193
1194
1195
1196
1197
1198
1199
1200
1201
1202
1203
1204
1205
1206
1207
1208
1209
1210
1211
1212
1213
1214
1215
1216
1217
1218
1219
1220
1221
1222
1223
1224
1225
1226
1227
1228
1229
1230
1231
1232
1233
1234
1235
1236
1237
1238
1239
1240
1241
1242
1243
1244
1245
1246
1247
1248
1249
1250
1251
1252
1253
1254
1255
1256
1257
1258
1259
1260
1261
1262
1263
1264
1265
1266
1267
1268
1269
1270
1271
1272
1273
1274
1275
1276
1277
1278
1279
1280
1281
1282
1283
1284
1285
1286
1287
1288
1289
1290
1291
1292
1293
1294
1295
1296
1297
1298
1299
1300
1301
1302
1303
1304
1305
1306
1307
1308
1309
1310
1311
1312
1313
1314
1315
1316
1317
1318
1319
1320
1321
1322
1323
1324
1325
1326
1327
1328
1329
1330
1331
1332
1333
1334
1335
1336
1337
1338
1339
1340
1341
1342
1343
1344
1345
1346
1347
1348
1349
1350
1351
1352
1353
1354
1355
1356
1357
1358
1359
1360
1361
1362
1363
1364
1365
1366
1367
1368
1369
1370
1371
1372
1373
1374
1375
1376
1377
1378
1379
1380
1381
1382
1383
1384
1385
1386
1387
1388
1389
1390
1391
1392
1393
1394
1395
1396
1397
1398
1399
1400
1401
1402
1403
1404
1405
1406
1407
1408
1409
1410
1411
1412
1413
1414
1415
1416
1417
1418
1419
1420
1421
1422
1423
1424
1425
1426
1427
1428
1429
1430
1431
1432
1433
1434
1435
1436
1437
1438
1439
1440
1441
1442
1443
1444
1445
1446
1447
1448
1449
1450
1451
1452
1453
1454
1455
1456
1457
1458
1459
1460
1461
1462
1463
1464
1465
1466
1467
1468
1469
1470
1471
1472
1473
1474
1475
1476
1477
1478
1479
1480
1481
1482
1483
1484
1485
1486
1487
1488
1489
1490
1491
1492
1493
1494
1495
1496
1497
1498
1499
1500
1501
1502
1503
1504
1505
1506
1507
1508
1509
1510
1511
1512
1513
1514
1515
1516
1517
1518
1519
1520
1521
1522
1523
1524
1525
1526
1527
1528
1529
1530
1531
1532
1533
1534
1535
1536
1537
1538
1539
1540
1541
1542
1543
1544
1545
1546
1547
1548
1549
1550
1551
1552
1553
1554
1555
1556
1557
1558
1559
1560
1561
1562
1563
1564
1565
1566
1567
1568
1569
1570
1571
1572
1573
1574
1575
1576
1577
1578
1579
1580
1581
1582
1583
1584
1585
1586
1587
1588
1589
1590
1591
1592
1593
1594
1595
1596
1597
1598
1599
1600
1601
1602
1603
1604
1605
1606
1607
1608
1609
1610
1611
1612
1613
1614
1615
1616
1617
1618
1619
1620
1621
1622
1623
1624
1625
1626
1627
1628
1629
1630
1631
1632
1633
1634
1635
1636
1637
1638
1639
1640
1641
1642
1643
1644
1645
1646
1647
1648
1649
1650
1651
1652
1653
1654
1655
1656
1657
1658
1659
1660
1661
1662
1663
1664
1665
1666
1667
1668
1669
1670
1671
1672
1673
1674
1675
1676
1677
1678
1679
1680
1681
1682
1683
1684
1685
1686
1687
1688
1689
1690
1691
1692
1693
1694
1695
1696
1697
1698
1699
1700
1701
1702
1703
1704
1705
1706
1707
1708
1709
1710
1711
1712
1713
1714
1715
1716
1717
1718
1719
1720
1721
1722
1723
1724
1725
1726
1727
1728
1729
1730
1731
1732
1733
1734
1735
1736
1737
1738
1739
1740
1741
1742
1743
1744
1745
1746
1747
1748
1749
1750
1751
1752
1753
1754
1755
1756
1757
1758
1759
1760
1761
1762
1763
1764
1765
1766
1767
1768
1769
1770
1771
1772
1773
1774
1775
1776
1777
1778
1779
1780
1781
1782
1783
1784
1785
1786
1787
1788
1789
1790
1791
1792
1793
1794
1795
1796
1797
1798
1799
1800
1801
1802
1803
1804
1805
1806
1807
1808
1809
1810
1811
1812
1813
1814
1815
1816
1817
1818
1819
1820
1821
1822
1823
1824
1825
1826
1827
1828
1829
1830
1831
1832
1833
1834
1835
1836
1837
1838
1839
1840
1841
1842
1843
1844
1845
1846
1847
1848
1849
1850
1851
1852
1853
1854
1855
1856
1857
1858
1859
1860
1861
1862
1863
1864
1865
1866
1867
1868
1869
1870
1871
1872
1873
1874
1875
1876
1877
1878
1879
1880
1881
1882
1883
1884
1885
1886
1887
1888
1889
1890
1891
1892
1893
1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900
1901
1902
1903
1904
1905
1906
1907
1908
1909
1910
1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030
2031
2032
2033
2034
2035
2036
2037
2038
2039
2040
2041
2042
2043
2044
2045
2046
2047
2048
2049
2050
2051
2052
2053
2054
2055
2056
2057
2058
2059
2060
2061
2062
2063
2064
2065
2066
2067
2068
2069
2070
2071
2072
2073
2074
2075
2076
2077
2078
2079
2080
2081
2082
2083
2084
2085
2086
2087
2088
2089
2090
2091
2092
2093
2094
2095
2096
2097
2098
2099
2100
2101
2102
2103
2104
2105
2106
2107
2108
2109
2110
2111
2112
2113
2114
2115
2116
2117
2118
2119
2120
2121
2122
2123
2124
2125
2126
2127
2128
2129
2130
2131
2132
2133
2134
2135
2136
2137
2138
2139
2140
2141
2142
2143
2144
2145
2146
2147
2148
2149
2150
2151
2152
2153
2154
2155
2156
2157
2158
2159
2160
2161
2162
2163
2164
2165
2166
2167
2168
2169
2170
2171
2172
2173
2174
2175
2176
2177
2178
2179
2180
2181
2182
2183
2184
2185
2186
2187
2188
2189
2190
2191
2192
2193
2194
2195
2196
2197
2198
2199
2200
2201
2202
2203
2204
2205
2206
2207
2208
2209
2210
2211
2212
2213
2214
2215
2216
2217
2218
2219
2220
2221
2222
2223
2224
222

CRIMINOLOGY LIBRARY - UNIV. OF TORONTO



3 1761 07596579 8

1.

T R A N S I T I O N

Address: 314 220 3rd Avenue South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Editor: Arthur Montague

Editorial Staff: Wm. L. Bell
L. Klassen

Inmates: Prince Albert
Stony Mountain
Drumheller

Cover Design: Ann Klein Nosen

TRANSITION is written and edited by inmates and ex-inmates of federal penitentiaries with ensured anonymity, if desired, and with complete editorial freedom.

All material in TRANSITION is copyrighted by its authors and is not to be reproduced in any form whatsoever without their permission.

TRANSITION is free to federal penitentiary inmates and ex-inmates.

Subscriptions are available at \$6.00 per year, single copies at 75¢ each.

TRANSITION is published monthly.

Vol. 1, No. 2 January, 1973.

NOTES AND OTHER CLUTTER

am

A less than astute staff member in Sask. Pen'y. attributed last month's plaudits for the pen'y Education Department and D.S. Dhillon, its supervisor, to my having worked in that department for nearly a year. I say less than astute because I also happen to have spent a year working in the office of the Industries Division. If a little less attention was paid to the motivations of the writers and a little more to what was being written, I daresay, a few less inmates would walk out the gates worse than when they went in. Indeed, a fortunate few may even come out the better for their "correction".

This issue provides an introduction to some of the program innovations at Drumheller Institution, notably the Living Units and the Life Skills for Corrections, both much-lauded but both very nebulous as corrective instruments. In addition, we look at the ethics of behavior modification from the standpoint of its inherent disregard for those to be modified. A look at Sask. Pen'y. vocational programs and the use of promise-of-parole as an instrument of coercion round the issue.

By next month, we hope, we shall be away from the mimeo machine, having begun negotiations to obtain our own press. Cooperation of inmates and ex-inmates across the prairies has been remarkable, a fine indication that self-determination can beget responsible behavior. Certainly our institutions have managed to prove the

opposite over their years of stasis, lesson well-learned by most cons but totally unnecessary. Encouraging it is that the institutions have also now entered the spirit of cooperation and concern essential for change.

E D I T O R I A L

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

am

Of all the changes in the Trudeau Cabinet since the election, the one which most easily fell into the category of political expedience was the demotion of Jean-Pierre Goyer from Solicitor General to Minister in charge of Supplies and Services. Certainly this change was not what I would call a "nicety in the news".

Canadian Press called Goyer "a victim of his job". Sad fact is that in a country long satisfied with the mediocre, Goyer was doing his job too well.

The Solicitor General is responsible for the operation of three major government departments: the RCMP, the National Parole Service, and the Canadian Penitentiary Service. Until 1968 all three of these were relatively autonomous, that is, the reigning Cabinet Minister usually left them to their own devices. This was why policy and program changes were few and far between, and what changes there were, were implemented in the interests of the civil servants more often than in the interests of those they presumably served, namely, the public.

But between '68 and '72 the three departments were severely shaken up. Someone in a position of power dared actually ask what in hell was going on, and horror of horrors, this someone was no less than the new boss, Mr. Goyer. Until then, accountability was unheard of; now it was the primary demand.

The most noticeable changes came in the Canadian Penitentiary Service. Several top echelon administrators, who just happened to have been old army biddies, decided to explore the joys of early retirement. Others found themselves promoted out of positions of responsibility. New blood was introduced.

As well, there were dramatic policy changes. Some of these benefitted inmates. The fruits of these are only now beginning to be harvested, and I do not mean in the sporadic, isolated and overblown incidents which noisily drown out the ~~steady~~ hum of significant progress. What few realize is

that when responsibility is placed on inmates, they generally respond more responsibly.

Not all of the changes were aimed to directly benefit inmates. The line staff also benefitted. They began to receive training which prepared them for more satisfying and useful functions than merely locking cell doors and writing-up charge sheets. Younger staff members jumped on this opportunity. Older staff members, however, men often so set in their ways they might have been cemented like the walls, were and still are reluctant to change. Unfortunately, the older staff are the men who control the unions in the penitentiary service.

The most noticeable sum of Goyer's successful corrections policies has been bad press due to the isolated incidents and due to union troubles which are directly related to older staff's reluctance to change from producing criminals to correcting them.

Goyer's affair with the traditionally sacrosanct National Parole Service was not much different. He actually dared suggest its powers be spread thinner by a merger with the Canadian Penitentiary Service. Moreover, he initiated a Senate Enquiry into the Canadian Parole System which, if it accedes to the expert testimony gathered from across the country, will recommend sweeping changes in the National Parole Service from the points of view of policies, practices, personnel, and powers. The result for Goyer of this necessary attempt at reform: another clutch of civil servants with a vested interest in getting him out of his job.

This brings Goyer to the RCMP, and as if he didn't have enough problems, he manages to arouse their ire too. He violates tradition by inaugurating a system of merit promotions to replace the ineffective system of seniority promotions. Goyer tried to teach the modern lesson that wisdom may not come with old age as quickly as senility. That the RCMP was an efficient police force (this I can personally attest to!) before these changes is beside the point. Goyer sought to make it more efficient.

Politically speaking, there is no doubt Goyer was a good man to demote. One can hope his successor earns the same reputation; however, if his comments in the press to date are any indication, Allmand will be around for a long time.

NOT IN PRAISE OF PROGRAMS PREMATURE!

The practice of implementing correctional programs without prior knowledge as to their efficacy is legion throughout the world. A concomitant practice is that of consequently evaluating these programs in such a way as to make them appear effective or, when this is not the case, developing the appropriate rhetoric to rationalize their failure. Today, such a practice is becoming increasingly costly in both monetary and human terms.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make all cheques payable to J. Sombäch
#314 220 3rd Ave. So.,
Saskatoon, Sask.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761075965798>

If the relationship between knowing and doing in the implementation of treatment programs in correctional institutions which are aimed at reducing recidivism rates has been tenuous in the past, then it is doubtful that this relationship has been much more tenuous than at present in the Canadian Penitentiary Service.

In answer to the question, "Do we know enough to justify some of the things which we are presently doing in our penitentiaries?" we must give an emphatic "NO!" In evaluative research on the efficacy of treatment programs in correctional institutions we find time and again that the more rigorous the methodology employed in such research, the more likely we are to find that the treatment measure has no effect in terms of reducing recidivism rates. Similarly, findings that the treatment measure does make a difference can almost always be traced back to shoddy methodology in the evaluation. Part of the problem may be that while many treatment measures are not ineffective per se, they may be effective only on a limited segment of a prison population or only on certain types of offenders. For some time, penologists have advocated relating treatment measures to offender typologies. In the name of efficiency and false-economy most treatment measures are applied to entire penitentiary populations.

Drumheller Institution has often been referred to as the model institution of the Canadian Penitentiary Service. The physical plant at Drumheller bears witness to this claim. It is our suspicion, however, that given the programs which are currently being implemented at Drumheller Institution, it

may well become the model institution in the pejorative sense.

In the late 1960's Saskatchewan Newstart developed what they termed a "Life Skills" program. In 1971 (?) the Canadian Penitentiary Service contracted with Saskatchewan Newstart to have this program modified for corrections. While many of the modifications in the program were made on the basis of work done at Warkworth Penitentiary, it is paradoxical to note that several of the final modifications were a result of suggestions made by inmates at Saskatchewan Penitentiary --- some of the very people that the program was supposed to help. Some facts are:-

- 1) There is no conclusive evidence that the Life Skills program was of any long term advantage to those who were exposed to it on the street.
- 2) The effectiveness of most treatment programs is related to contextual variables. A correction setting is, without doubt, an abnormal environment and it is often fallacious to assume that a program which may be effective on the street will be effective in correctional settings. Most program modifications made for corrections are made on the basis of security rather than treatment considerations.
- 3) Many penitentiary inmates are incarcerated because they know all too well how to manipulate the system to their advantage. For these a Life Skills program is of no relevance. For those who do lack elementary life skills there may be the danger that this program may lead to rising expectations which will be severely frustrated upon release.

At the very least, we suggest that the Penitentiary Service has moved far too quickly in the implementation of the Life Skills program in institutions such as Warkworth. In fairness to the taxpayers and to the inmates who will be subjected to this program, the Penitentiary Service should implement this program on a very small and carefully controlled experimental basis in order to determine whether or not the claims made by the program's advocates can be realized.

Another program which is currently being implemented at Drumheller Institution is the "Living Unit" approach. To this end, approximately half of the custodial staff at the institution is being trained for counselling roles in the living units. If nothing else, to the inmates involved, a few weeks training and a change in job classification will not make a "bull" a confidante.

Privacy is increasingly becoming a luxury commodity in our society and we have known for some time that one of the worst pains of imprisonment is the lack of privacy. As well, loneliness --- having to suddenly cope with living with oneself --- is a serious problem faced by many inmates upon release. The Living Unit approach will, in all probability, do nothing to improve this situation. Here, then, is another area where there is a disjunction between knowing and doing. If actions in the past offer any basis of predicting actions in the future, then this program and others will be diffused throughout the Penitentiary Service not on the basis of proven efficacy but, rather, on the basis of the ease of administrative implementation.

We suggest that it is time to slow down, if not halt, the haphazard introduction of new programs in Canadian penitentiaries until such time as we can clearly demonstrate on a pilot basis that such programs have a positive effect. To some, the cost to the taxpayer is the most important issue and will undoubtedly be the decisive one. Hopefully, the cost in terms of human dignity will be the most important issue. A convincing case can be made that until such time as we know what we are actually doing, we are far better off doing nothing. The alternative is just another step closer to 1984.

LIFE SKILLS: NUISANCE, NONSENSE, OR NECESSARY?

Ed. Note:- Reprinted below is the Report on the Life Skills program prepared by inmates of the Prince Albert Penitentiary and submitted to Saskatchewan Newstart in early 1972. Except to change the word "student" to "inmate" the Course has not been significantly changed or modified for institution use. The Report was based on study of Life Skills research data, as well as the Course itself, and discussions with Course formulators from Newstart. Saskatchewan Newstart is, in name, now defunct. It has been incorporated as a research and development arm of Canada Manpower.

THE REPORT

Within a community context, i.e., where customary facilities, services and institutions are accessible, the Life Skills Course may provide a student the knowledge and ability necessary to appreciation and exploitation of the community; this, it must be emphasized, depends primarily on the students having access to these facilities during the learning cycle.

The course utilizes several teaching techniques in an effort to achieve its objectives. Among these are videotape replays of behavior, role playing, self and group criticism, trust exercises, and appraisal questionnaires. In variously modified forms most of these techniques have had as wide ranging use as in airline stewardess schools and Communist Chinese prisoner of war camps, generally with measurable success.

The Life Skills Course has several merits. Unfortunately none really apply to inmate requirements. For the Penitentiary Service the course doubtless possesses a quantitative attraction. If the Services' sole aim is the improvement of its public image the course would be justified, for its generated statistical data could be impressively presented. Presumably this is not the case; presumably the Service has a sincere desire to meet the needs of the inmate in terms of the street community. If so, the course is not a very effective instrument.

The present structure of the course is

fallacious basically because its clients would be penitentiary inmates. The foreknowledge of exactly what this constitutes must be the starting point and continuous control during the formulation of any course on other than the mechanistic-vocational plane which is so ideally and exploitatively suited to the custodial concept of inmate-as-automaton pervading every federal penitentiary. Not to say that a course should seek to confine itself within this anachronistic custodial criterion; only that, like the recalcitrant inmate, because of custodial considerations it will be warped or fragmented until it is so confined.

Perhaps the Life Skills Course is an example of what cannot be provided the inmate as inmate. The Course is roughly divided into five parts: self, family, leisure, community and job --- the Skills are in these areas.

Imprisonment in any penitentiary, whatever its security rating, is in this country a systematic process of depersonalization; whether by intent, accident or public indifference, this is its overriding effect. The sense of self is usually so atrophied only release from this environment will serve to revitalize it. The inmate's relationship to his family and community are aborted or permanently crippled by the penitentiary's physicality. If the inmate continues to relate to his family and community while imprisoned he does so, for the most part, phantastically. Jobs and employment are as much tied to an individual's self-esteem as his experiential qualification or community ties. The correctional institution calculatedly vitiates self-esteem and fails to provide or augment experience and continued or strengthened ties in a way meaning-

ful to participation in the community labour force. Indeed, those inmates with minimal job qualification in the community are usually over-qualified for their institution assignments, thus whatever qualification they did possess deteriorates in proportion to length of time served. Leisure, last of the five, is, by its usual nature, communal; therefore, an inmate cannot relate to it except vicariously --- again, because he is isolated from the community. None of the five Course subject areas have abiding relevance to the inmate frame of reference --- the institution.

The course cannot satisfy needs of both the administration and inmates. By satisfying administration needs, i.e., custody and control of inmates, the Life Skills Course would fail to satisfy its own criteria. Quoting from Newstart literature, "physical setting affects behavior." The physical setting of a Life Skills Course is structured for flexibility. Simply, this is not available in a penitentiary. The course creators underscore the importance of not giving the student the frustration of "firing him up and giving him but a limited capability to do anything". To avoid this they suggest "combining the course with the elements already in the manpower training program". They suggest a "link-up to academic and technical or vocational training". Our present vocational training program is a joke and a travesty which will require root policy changes before it even begins to have validity. Moreover, administrative lack of foresight and jurisdictional confusion tend to obviate the possibility of cooperation this combinative program would require. Any course brought into an institution must, therefore, rise or fall exclusively on its own merits.

We have little doubt administrative difficulties could be ironed out by dynamic, knowledgeable leadership. The problems arising out of inmate needs in this environment are somewhat more complex.

Let us look at some facts while keeping in mind that Life Skills uses techniques which arbitrarily tamper with base emotional and behavioral structures. One in five inmates has at some time been hospitalized in a provincial mental hospital. These hospitals are well-known only for their lack of effective treatment, therefore, it can be presumed --- must be presumed --- that the condition of ex-patients is either unchanged or deteriorated. Over 50% of the inmates have committed violent or potentially violent criminal acts. And too, either by repetitive observation and/or participation almost the entire inmate population is inured to violence. As well, violence and its threat are very much operative modes of inmate interaction. These are facts which cannot be ignored. Any raising of inmate expectations (and the course would do this) in a closed environment without a proportionate satisfaction is inherently dangerous, not only to good order but to inmate welfare in general.

It can be reasonably argued that the course will have a detrimental affect on the day-to-day institution life of the inmate. One must remember that those who take a Life Skills Course in the community do not live in the same house as their fellow students. Therefore, any anxiety or tension-producing incidents arising in the class will have a cooling period after class. Such is not the case in a penitentiary. To be noted also, confrontation and reality methods, whether of instruction

or therapy turn on the creating of anxiety and tension. The institution's schedule of living means that individual and group conflicts will be left unresolved for significant lengths of time after the class which precipitated them, but the student contact will be continued at its same intensity.

To be kept in mind when considering the implementation of any course or program is the inmate's length of sentence. Here it is a matter of years (in a penitentiary), not days or weeks or months. There is little point in an inmate learning Life Skills which he may not have an opportunity to use for several years if, indeed, he even remembers them that long. An inmate who used his newly-learned Life Skills in his daily interaction with institution staff would likely be regarded as a manipulator, which typing would conceivably jeopardize his parole chances.

Another problem which will arise if an inmate utilizes his Life Skills in the prison milieu is the reinforcement of his self-identity as an inmate/deviant through intensified involvement with institution affairs, a state which can spell certain doom if he is to capably transit to the community.

A final point here; one of the Course objectives is to instill in students a sense of accountability. There is a fundamental contradiction between this and the penitentiary's calculated effort to render an inmate powerless in the decisions of his daily life. Thesis-antithesis-synthesis; this Hegelian-Marxist tenet cannot be applied in a totalitarian institution. There can be no synthesis.

All this is not to say the Life Skills Course is without value to the Penitentiary Service, though it must be said many content changes would be required before it could be effectively utilized even in the manners set out below.

There comes to mind three student-settings in which the course might be used, presuming changes are made.

The first, and perhaps most dubious use would be for an integrated officer-inmate class. In addition to the Life Skills manifest in the course content, some of the techniques such as trust exercises might over time have a significantly favorable effect on officer-inmate rapport in general. If consideration is given to such a suggestion, then it is imperative those chosen as students, both officers and inmates, be carefully screened beforehand. Personally, we do not believe the officer class' authoritative paternalism would countenance such joint participation.

A second use for the Course would be as an exclusive staff training course. In no federal corrections institution are staff capably trained in human relations or life skills, whether applied to the interactions of their job roles or their community roles. Certainly there are a few officers so trained and few who do not need such training but most, and we have in mind custodial staff, display a paucity of sensitivity, comprehension and accountability, all three of which can to some extent be instilled by such a course. Not to be forgotten is the self-confidence and service loyalty which would likely also result.

A third use would be as part of a pre-release program for inmates close to discharge. In this case, few changes would be necessary to the course. The program would be ideal for a pre-release center such as the Community Corrections Centers now being created.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: THE MEANS TO MEDIOCRITY

To kick a man when he is down is a tradition of our society. A deviant is permitted to become a "corrected" deviant but, as has been written elsewhere, only the adjective changes, never the noun. A minority is allowed to use its minority status up to a point that always falls short of majority equality but no further. Whatever it gets, it gets as a minority only.

Up until recently the penitentiaries were geared to punish offenders physically. We had things like corporal punishment, restricted diets, isolation, the silent system. To some, but lessened, extent some of these are still with us. The trend, though, has moved away from physical punishment; but in doing so it has taken a form much more insidious and much more punishing; the form is now psychic or mental,, and it threatens to become a more widespread and mishandled form before it is aborted than physical punishment ever was.

There are lots of names for the new focus: behavior modification, contingency management, operant conditioning, behavior therapy. There are slight differences in each of these but their premise is much the same. The gist of it is that antisocial behavior is acquired, maintained and modified in accord with the same principles as are other behaviors, and that it is possible to develop programs which discourage, weaken and eliminate target deviant behaviors while at the same time instilling, strengthening and maintaining constructive prosocial behaviors in their place. Sounds good. Almost as pat as a Supreme Court decision.

Calculated modification of behavior techniques came out of the laboratory. Presumably, the hypothesis is that if it can be done to rats and rabbits it can be done to people; all that is required is totally-controllable people. What better place to look than at a prison population, for truly if anywhere they are here.

BM administrators would be charitable in their endeavours. Of this there's no doubt. Any inmate who entered such a program would be asked to volunteer. Of course if he declined, the inference that would find its way to his file and thence to the Parole Board would be that he was disinterested in his own rehabilitation. That he may not have wanted someone deliberately messing with his mind --- an attitude most street people would take --- is incidental. This, however, is beside the points we wish eventually to make here; much as is the question of who is so demonstrably free of guilt that they can define or ascribe inappropriate and appropriate social behavior?

Our main points can be explained thusly. When behavior is self-conditioned, as it is in open society, the individual always has the element of choice. Controlled conditioning removes this. Our society is constantly changing, conditioned behavior is static. Moreover, it requires constant reinforcement --- we do not yet have anything remotely like efficacious after-care in this country. As well, constant and ever-increasing acceptable reinforcers, though they can realistically be provided in an institution --- because of the total control --- are unrealistic in open society.

If generalized behavior change can be affected in an inmate expectations will be created, satisfaction of which is for the most part impossible. 'Nice guys finish last' is more than a platitude. Nice guys, to be sure, don't deviate; nor do they fully satisfy middle-class self-expectations if these they have, and these are probable part of the BM bag of changes. For this reason, any attempt to change generalized behavior within the institution with the hope of subsequent sustained change on the street must be preceded by determination of what behaviors will 'pay off' on the street --- and which of those that 'pay off' on the street are realizable in an institution. The final point is economic: research indicates the elimination of one form of inappropriate human behavior is more akin to displacement; elimination seems to beget x-number of ever increasing equally, or more, inappropriate forms of behavior, thus treatment becomes perpetual. Who's going to pay for this?

In summation, BM is too embryonic to yet be applied to people, particularly people who are so vulnerable they cannot effectively prevent being used as experimental samples --- for good or evil!

PRISON INDUSTRIES: PART ONE

Little effort or expertise is required to criticize a system as moribund as that presently embodied by our penitentiaries. Even less of each is required to criticize the Industries Division of the penitentiaries.

Perhaps, in recent months, it is the lack of effort or expertise that has stimulated much of the criticism. Inmate labour is not only exploited in the name of corrections, it is forced. The only work habits inculcated by prison labour are poor ones. Prison labour is unrelated to job markets whether markets are regional, national or global. Vocational training is not only secondary to production of goods, it is structured out of the division's budget schema. All of these criticisms have degrees of validity, that is, all have some validity. What takes the edge off them and what leads one to peer elsewhere is that in the day-to-day business of living in a penitentiary the same factors which can draw criticism also have some justification. Especially this is so today. However the question remains whether the justification is sufficient to warrant continuance of some of the practices and policies of the division.

Not unlike most departments of the penitentiary service, Industries has undergone considerable change in the past two years. At SP, Conforce One, discussed in last month's Transition, is operating under the aegis of the Industries Division. It is a demonstrable success that has beneficially affected the future of many

cons. It warrants replication across the country. In keeping with the directed trend toward inviting more community participation in prison programs, A.B.Dick Co. Ltd. has been contracted to provide inmates training in offset printing, composing, layout and photography. This program, even when fully operative, will reach only a small segment of inmates but the segment, if only one man, may be one more than before --- and, as that, justifies entire cost of the program.

A program being developed by Jim O'Sullivan, Supervisor of Industries, utilizing the Pre-employment facilities addresses a potentially major job market, that of construction framing. Since their inception at SP, the Pre-employment facilities have been the Division's white elephant; thousands of dollars worth of capital equipment sitting idle because Ottawa would not permit hiring an instructor and because pre-employment training for non-employment within the prison is patently absurd. Dumb too!

The framing carpenter is a tradesman whose work necessitates a broad knowledge of building types, foundation types and so on. His work is such that it can be segmented or specialized much like a doctor's. Indeed, the versatility of a framing carpenter is not unlike that of a general practitioner. Primarily because of the length of time required to teach the full complement of carpentry skills, the Industries Division has developed a course which segments these skills. For example, one segment taught as a unit in itself may be house framing; another may be foundation forms. The IWA, carpenters' union in the prairies, has agreed to register as union members inmate graduates of each segment and place them on local spare boards

for Conforce One involvement. As well, Jim O'Sullivan is presently engaged in negotiations with the Department of Labour to have the program officially accredited.

Opposition to the program is coming from employers, a group who have probably contributed more to the despicable state of vocational training and retraining within the prisons than any other (this point is scheduled for detailing in a later issue). In this case the employers balk at having to pay comparable wages to a man who lacks the full skills of a tradesman but who nevertheless can do the designate work. Employers fear that specialization, a precedent in this case, may become the rule and that if so the days of the all-round carpenter may be numbered. What employers fail to see is that the inmates taking the course segment by segment will in all probability have taken most of the segments by time of release, hence will be very close or actual full carpenters anyway.

Like the printing program and the carpentry program, another, which is still on the negotiating table, is geared to answer specific needs, interests, and aptitudes rather than simplistically generalized bureaucratic whimsy. This is a course in Radio and TV Electronics. The Treasury Board has already approved expenditure --- and it is substantial --- all that now remains is to find the most for the money. This program has been more than a year in the making.

At least one industrial shop which was scheduled to be phased out is still operating. This is the Tailor Shop. There are good reasons

In effort to make Transition self-supporting, effective after our third monthly issue, courtesy copies will be curtailed except to inmates and ex-inmates of federal penitentiaries and media.

This is in keeping with the original agreement with the Saskatchewan Corrections and Criminology Association.

For the convenience of those who wish to continue receiving copies of Transition a subscription form is enclosed.

Subscriptions are \$6.00 per year.

for this; one of them relates to something recently legalized in all of Canada except in penitentiaries where, the argument goes, there is hypothetically no such thing as a private place. Titillation aside, there is another reason: in SP many inmates are presently involved in academic and Conforce One activities which break up daily schedules but do not quite fill them. Many now working in shops are there only part of the time and only secondarily. The shops, then, and the Tailor Shop is example, provide an alternative to the cell for an inmate. (Another reason for these shops is simply that the NPS cutback on paroles is already crowding the prisons again). The shop activity is surely mere make-work, but at least the pretension of 'training' has been cast aside.

NEXT MONTH: Part Two - Inmate wages, the high-production shops, overcrowded shops, and the politics of exploitation.

THE PRE-PAROLE PERIOD: ACCELERATED COERCION

A great deal has been said and written about the disfunctions inherent in the Canadian parole system. A great deal has been said and written about the National Parole Service as an autocracy, one of the strongest examples of bureaucratic 'empire-building' in the history of the Canadian civil service. All this has overshadowed a major reason for inmate and ex-inmate resentment of paroles, the parole contract, and the philosophy of parole. Quite simply, the possibility of parole is used as a subtly coercive form of inmate control within the penitentiaries.

For the uninitiated this requires some explanation. The period of parole can be as much as two-thirds of a man's sentence. That it is, is actually rare. What is important though, from the point of view of penitentiary officials, is that application for parole must be filed by the inmate at least five months prior to his eligibility date. The inmate is thus officially committed. At no other time is he more vulnerable.

Among the things a prospective parolee must do is put together what may be acceptable to the Parole Board as a plan of future action, the infamous 'parole plan'. Occasionally he may be able to get this on paper --- a job offer, residence confirmation, acceptance by relatives are some such features. More often this cannot be done; for it the inmate must rely on the community report prepared by the parole service or an agency contracted by it. If this is the case, the inmate must certainly now put together demonstrable evidence of his good intentions. The only way he can do this with any hope of success is participate in the prison 'corrective' programs, and become exceedingly cooperative with the prison staff with whom he comes in contact because it is them who write reports on his 'profound behavior change' for Parole Board consumption --- and more important, for the local parole officer whose report is virtual gospel to the Board, whose recommendation is usually the Board's decision, and who has day-to-day contact with prison staff such that a casual remark unrelated to anything on paper or in the inmate's performance can conceivably have more affect than months of work on the part of the inmate.

The inmate must strive to approximate the staff

members' idea of a nice guy. This might be OK, it might even be rehabilitative. Unfortunately, the characteristics of a nice guy are as varied as the number of staff members. For his shop instructor the inmate may be obliged to work harder, hence his exploitable-ness increases and, make no mistake, so does the exploitation. To line custody staff inclusive, the most prominent of his antagonists, the inmate may be obliged to be obsequious at worst, at best respectful and complimentary. The inmate must show utmost cooperation. He must obey staff orders absolutely, however inane he may think them --- and very often when custody is concerned, however inane they may actually be. The inmate loses a few more shreds of self-esteem and personal dignity during this process. For his classification officer, man who reports and recommends on not only parole applications but TLA's and work placement changes, the inmate must be even more the chameleon. Inmates are assigned to classification officers arbitrarily. This is necessary, of course, because if it wasn't done, that is, if choice was left up to the inmate some C.O.'s would have no caseload and others would be overburdened. Because a man is designated a C.O. is no measure of his capability; sometimes it's no more than a measure of his relatives' influence.. At any rate, the inmate, whatever his natural proclivities may be, must make a friend of his C.O. Easiest way to do this is to address the interests of the C.O. Some like to solve a man's problems, therefore, he must be given some problems to solve. Another may tout a particular program, such as Alcoholics Anonymous. Need then is to get into that program. To further the AA example, an inmate need not have a genuine drinking problem, he needs only admit having one. Hovering always in the background is that parole. For months, even prior to the Board's hearing, it

hovers there. Every day. Every hour. And for all this time it pressures the inmate to accept and submit to the obscenities and absurdities of the system he wants no more from than to get out of it.

Many staff, aware of its potential as a coercive instrument, strive not to use it as such. Others use it as a club. But whether directly used or not, it is there and it is viciously coercive. A man may have respect for a gun pointed at his head but if it is pointed long enough he either comes to laugh at it or he comes to hate it. One thing for sure: the "corrective" implications of the parole are often corrupted even before the Parole Hearing, to say nothing of what happens during the period between hearing and release.

A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Wm. L. Bell

Community participants in the Saskatoon-based Nito-tem Visitation program at SP are receiving more thorough training than most line corrections workers at the same prison. They are being paid substantially less too, like nothing but the self-satisfaction of filling a woeful lack in the present corrections system.

Nito-tem is the in-depth visitation program conceived to provide ex-inmates coming to Saskatoon with resource persons who are not only familiar with the problems of transition to the community and who are knowledgeable regarding beneficial community resources, but who have even before the inmate's release developed a close, understanding one-to-one relationship with him. Participants, citizen and inmate, are volunteers.

Weekly meetings of citizen volunteers are held in Saskatoon. These meetings are much in the way of seminars designed to satisfy the information needs of the volunteers as well as enable co-ordinators to monitor progress of the program. At least one ex-inmate is available for questions at each meeting --- an aspect we heartily approve and one which, if ended, would lead us toward serious re-evaluation of the program's legitimacy.

ANOTHER FORM OF TRANSITION

Transition's CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AWARD this month goes out to all advocates of capital punishment. That you have permitted yourselves to be gulled by statistics as meaningless as "lasting peace in South-east Asia" is worthy commendation, but it is the least meritorious of your virtues.

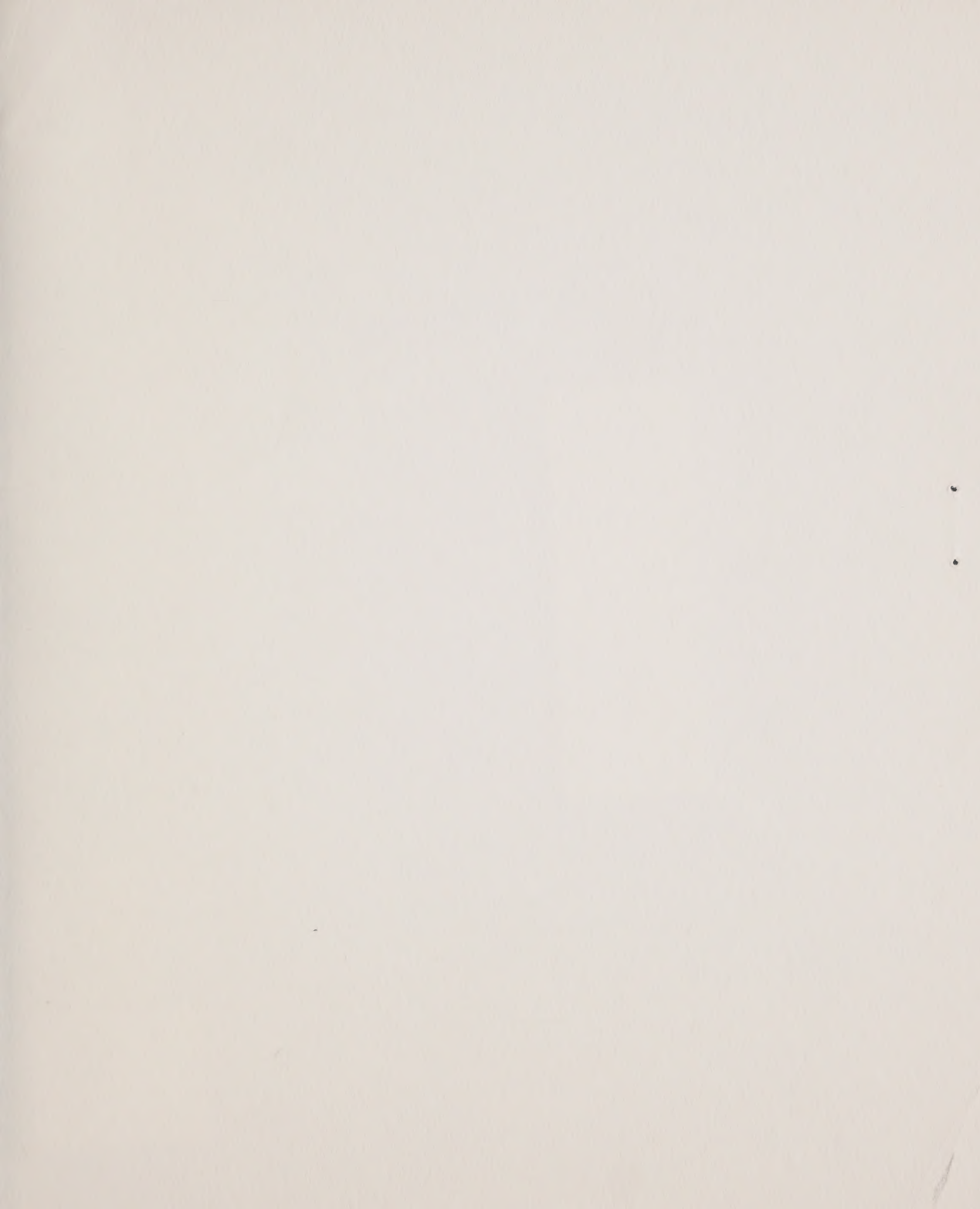
Most meritorious is that you would exact from others what most of you are not willing to do yourselves, to wit, murder.

Nor does the fundamental contradiction between public opinion and sanity seem much to trouble you. Because you cannot be reasoned with, because humanitarian appeals will not dent your obdurate righteousness, you are worthy our approbation. We hope you will treasure this award as you must your confidence that taxes to Ottawa will buy murder as surely as cash under a table.

And a final point: be assured that just because the man who points the gun today may face it tomorrow works both ways is not cause for alarm --- when insanity rules only the sane suffer.

FOOTNOTE to Last Month's Award: Judge Dean Saks, Edmonton.

We have received a reliable report from Saskatchewan Penitentiary that the 19-year old youth given four years by the good judge for the \$150 robbery of a gas station has suffered a severe nervous breakdown due primarily to an inability to adjust to the prison environment. Is this also a tolerable crime, Judge?



314 - 220 3rd AVENUE SO.
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
S7K 1M1

The Librarian,
Centre of Criminology,
University of Toronto,
607-609 Spadina Ave.,
TORONTO 181, Ont.

